

**FATE CREEK DAM REMOVAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
SOUTH RIVER FIELD OFFICE  
EA# OR - 105 - 99 - 02**

Date Prepared: March 17, 1999

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The South River Resource Area, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, has completed the environmental analysis on the Fate Creek Dam Removal proposal. The site is located in the SE¼ SE¼, Section 31 of T. 29 S., R. 3 W., W.M. The action analyzed would be the removal of an existing dam, placement of instream structures to assist fish migration, and construction of a new diversion system for irrigation.

There were no cultural resources identified in the project area. The site is not located in proximity to parks, prime/unique farm, or Wild and Scenic Rivers. No Native American religious concerns were identified during issue identification. Field surveys did not identify the presence of any Special Status plant populations. Potential suitable habitat for Survey and Manage species will be evaluated. If suitable habitat is identified, surveys will be conducted in accordance with established protocols. If any Survey and Manage species are identified on the project site, they will be managed in accordance with management recommendations.

The removal of the dam is considered a "no affect" action on the northern spotted owl, bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not required. The project area is located outside of the marbled murrelet habitat management zone and is outside of Columbia white-tail deer habitat on the Roseburg District.

Entries into the Riparian Reserve for the purpose of the dam removal, placement of instream structures, and construction of a water diversion system would have minimal impact to wetlands/riparian zones. The impacts would be localized and of short duration. There would be the potential for increased sediment associated with the project, but the affected area would be limited to the lower reach of Fate Creek, and the duration would through the following winter. The effects on Special Status fish species is "not likely to adversely affect". This action is considered to be programmatic in nature and conforms to the National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion for the Umpqua River cutthroat trout dated September 26, 1996, and the conference opinion for the Oregon Coast coho salmon dated March 19, 1997. Mitigation will include seasonal restrictions on instream work associated with the demolition and construction, and ripping and seeding of the temporary access road to the creek.

Of the ten points under Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, section 1508.27(b), the following will not be discussed further in this document, because there are no significant effects on the public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; no highly uncertain or unknown risks; no precedents for future actions; no cumulatively significant impacts; no impacts to elements eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and no violations of Federal, State, or local laws.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the EA, I have determined that

the project will not have significant impact on the human environment with the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The project is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy will not be compromised. The Best Management Practices (BMP) listed in Appendix D of the ROD/RMP (pp. 141-142) will be applied to mitigate impacts.

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Field Manager  
South River Field Office

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Date